



GO GREEN! NEWSLETTER

January 2010

Christmas Tree Recycling

Lansing

Ready to get rid of your Christmas tree from this holiday season? Lansing residents can dispose of their live, undecorated Christmas trees on normal collection days, through January 15th. The city collects approximately 3,000 trees every year to be composted with other yard waste.

East Lansing

If you would like to enjoy your tree a few days longer or miss the January 11th pick-up date, there are also several city parks accepting Christmas trees for recycling before January 15th. East Lansing recycles approximately 2,500 trees each year and uses the wood chips made from these trees for mulch in its parks.



Making Resolutions?

This year, resolve to:

Car-pool, walk, or use public transportation at least once a week.

Purchase reusable bags and recycle the ones you have.

Combine trips and errands to decrease commute time, emissions, and save

Salt Alternatives

Salt use on slippery pathways is common in our Michigan climate this time of year. It is sometimes necessary to use a de-icing agent to prevent injury to oneself and family. The effects of salt use, however, have detrimental effects on pets, plants, and water sources. Salt build up prevents the uptake of nutrients and moisture in plant-life and is also absorbed through your pet's paws resulting in a potentially lethal outcome. Instead of relying on salt to melt icy walkways, try spreading sand or gravel to provide some natural traction. A new alternative that is still being tested is calcium magnesium acetate (CAM). This product is made from vinegar and research that has been conducted so far has shown a limited impact on animals and plants.



Winter Bird Count

February 12th through the 15th The National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology will be working together to record bird population information based on your sightings. Their website, birdcount.org, allows you to record sightings and also provides information on how to classify different species. Information collected from your observations helps researchers determine how birds are affected by climate change. This is a great way to help our environment right from your own home.



<http://www.birdsource.org/qbbc/>

Reusable Produce Bags

Plastic is a harmful product that is not biodegradable and takes about 1000 years to decompose. Did you know: there are 500 billion plastic bags used every year? This translates to 1 million per minute. We have been offered an alternative to plastic grocery bags but what about other plastic products such as produce bags? The following website offers 8 types of [reusable produce bags](#). Recycling and reusing your current plastic bags is another way to decrease your environmental impact.



Learning Opportunity.....Human Health and Climate Change

Dr. Howard Frumkin, Director of the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, will be speaking as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at Michigan State University on January 14th, from 1-2p.m. He will be discussing the effects of climate change on public health. The lecture will be held in Parlor C of the MSU Union with a reception held immediately after.

<http://www.espp.msu.edu/climatechange/lecture.php>